

Posture Updates in Support of Allies in Europe

February 22, 2022

As part of our commitment to upholding the principles of the rules-based international order and to the security of our NATO Allies, the United States maintains significant combat-capable forces in Europe. These forward-deployed forces help to deter aggression and if deterrence fails, stand shoulder to shoulder with our Allies to maintain security and stability in Europe. At the President's direction and following Secretary Austin's recommendation, the Department of Defense will reposition certain Europe-based units further east, forward deploy additional U.S.-based units to Europe, and maintain the heightened state of readiness of response forces to meet these commitments. These forces are not going to fight in Ukraine. They are not permanent moves. They respond to current conditions. We will adjust our posture as those conditions evolve, and we will continue to consult closely with NATO Allies to ensure an appropriate collective posture of deterrence and defense. We welcome the announcements by other Allies - including France, Germany, Spain, UK, the Netherlands, and Denmark - of their consideration to provide additional contributions to enhancing NATO's posture on the eastern flank.

Stryker Squadron Repositioned from Germany to Romania

As a part of our broader effort to demonstrate our commitment to our NATO Allies and deter Russian aggression, the United States repositioned a Stryker squadron of approximately 1,000 U.S. service members already in the European theater to Romania. The 2nd Cavalry Regiment, a mounted unit based in Vilseck, Germany, sent a combined arms force equipped with wheeled armored fighting vehicles to deter aggression and enhance our defensive capabilities in Romania during this period of elevated risk.

Stryker Troops to Bulgaria and Hungary to Conduct Training Missions

On Feb. 17, Secretary Austin, in conjunction with the government of Bulgaria, announced a U.S. Army Stryker troop of approximately 125 soldiers will take part in a training mission in Bulgaria. On Feb. 18, U.S. Army Europe-Africa, in conjunction with the government of Hungary, announced a U.S. Army Stryker troop of approximately 125 soldiers will take part in a training mission in Hungary.

Multi-Mission Assure and Deter Forces Deployed to Poland and Germany

Additionally, the Secretary deployed approximately 5,000 forces from the United States to Europe. These include approximately 4,700 service members of the 82nd Airborne Division and key enablers deployed to Germany. The 82nd Airborne Division deployed components of an Infantry Brigade Combat Team and key enablers to Poland. The 18th Airborne Corps moved a

Joint Task Force-capable headquarters to Germany. Collectively, this force is trained and equipped for a variety of missions to deter aggression and to reassure and defend our Allies during this period of elevated risk. We worked closely with our Polish and German Allies to set the stage for these movements, and we appreciate their support.

160 Members of Florida National Guard Repositioned

Secretary Austin ordered the temporary repositioning of the 160 members of the Florida National Guard who have been deployed to Ukraine since late November. These troops, assigned to the 53rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, have been advising and mentoring Ukrainian forces as part of Joint Multinational Training Group-Ukraine. They are departing Ukraine and have been repositioned elsewhere in Europe.

Movement of U.S. Forces Currently Stationed in Europe

Most recently, on February 22, Secretary Austin ordered the additional movement of U.S. forces currently stationed in Europe to continue our support for NATO Allies and the defense of the eastern flank. These forces -- comprised of aviation elements and ground forces -- will move within the EUCOM Area of Operations to NATO's northeastern and southeastern flanks.

These forces are comprised of:

- An infantry battalion task force of approximately 800 personnel, from Italy to the Baltic region;
- Movement of up to eight F-35 Strike Fighters, from Germany to several operating locations along NATO's eastern flank
- A battalion of attack aviation -- 20 AH-64 helicopters -- from Germany to the Baltic region;
- And an attack aviation task force -- 12 AH-64 helicopters -- will move from Greece to Poland.

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